GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:324
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
MODERNIZATION OF POSTAL SERVICES IN WEST BENGAL
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for the modernisation of postal communication service under recently started Grameen Sanchar Sewak scheme in the country particularly in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof , State-wise;

(c) whether any Budget allocation has been made for the purpose in the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when modernization work under the said scheme is ,likely to be completed in West Bengal ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a)to (e): The Grameen Sanchar Sewa Scheme, launched on a pilot basis in around 8000 villages throughout the country, except Andaman & Nicobar, Haryana and Punjab Telecom Circles, by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) under the Department of Telecommunications seeks to provide telephone facilities at the door step in villages through Gramin Dak Sewak Delivey Agents of the Department of Post who work as franchisees of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. Since the Grameen Dak Sanchar Sewak scheme does not seek to improve postal communication service, the question of providing any budget allocation by the Department of Posts for this purpose under the scheme does not arise.